

Wine Menu

Just a wee note about the wine list, before we begin.....

We have tried to do things slightly differently than a bog standard list; we have picked all our wines on merit, hopefully you will get as much pleasure picking your wine as your food.

We have classified the list according to grape type rather than region or conventional French names to assist you in choosing your wine, meaning if you are not so sure about wines but let's say you know you like sauvignon blanc, look at that section of the list to try something different but with the same basic structure you know you like.

There are brief tasting notes explaining about each of the wines or of course we will be happy to recommend wines for you.

We hope the list inspires you to try something different and please don't feel intimidated about it in any way..... We are here to help,

Happy "quaffing"

P.S. The type of place we run here means that after we pour the first glass the rest is down to you.....enjoy!!

P.P.S. I have highlighted my favourite selections with..... "AB" under the bin number.

...and a final note, always ask the staff, you never know there might be some crackers lurking behind the scenes that we need to get rid of....

***" One holds a bottle of red wine by the neck,
a woman by the waist,
and a bottle of Champagne by the derriere."***
Unknown

Champagne & Sparkling Wine

In the immortal words of Noel Coward *"Why do I drink Champagne for breakfast? Doesn't everyone?"*

There can be no better way to start an evening or a celebration than with champagne.

Three grape varieties are used in the production of Champagne — Pinot Meunier, Pinot Noir and Chardonnay. The bubbles in champagne are a natural phenomenon and it is the second fermentation in the bottle causes the bubbles.

The main difference between various Champagne brands or houses, is in the making of the cuvée, or the blend, first done by the now famous Dom Pierre Pérignon.

A champagne house builds a reputation based on the particular style of blend of its non vintage wine, each year the wine must be consistent and this is the job of the cellar master. Once you find a house style you like, it will be available year after year as long as that house exists.

In especially good years, some vintage champagne is produced. The extra depth in taste is well worth the extra cost of these wines.

"I only drink Champagne when I'm happy, and when I'm sad. Sometimes I drink it when I'm alone. When I have company, I consider it obligatory. I trifle with it if I am not hungry and drink it when I am. Otherwise I never touch it - unless I'm thirsty."

Lily Bollinger

BIN	WINE	VINTAGE	PRICE
1 AB	Prosecco, La Riva dei Frati, Italy <i>Italy's version of champagne, famous in Bellini's from Harry's bar in Venice or just great on its own as a pre dinner drink.</i>	NV	€35 €8 glass
2	Charles Pelletier Rose, Methode Traditionnelle, Burgundy, France <i>Girls this one is for you!! A rose bubbly, made in the same method as champagne but at a fraction of the cost, a real ressetion buster full of strawberry, biscuit flavours.</i>	NV	€35
3	Pierre Moncuit 'Cuvee H. Coulmet' <i>A blanc de blanc (100% Chardonnay grapes) this is a very easy drinking champagne,.....maybe too easy!!!</i>	NV	€55 €11 glass
4	Taittinger Brut Reserve <i>A great wine from a very old house. Rich and creamy with a biscuity touch and clear fruit character.</i>	NV	€70
5	Taittinger Prestige Brut Rose <i>An elegant rose, smooth biscuity finish, one that will surely impress the ladies.</i>	NV	€80
6	Deutz Brut Reserve <i>Owned by the house of Louis Roederer and it shows, almost vintage like in style.</i>	NV	€85

"I cannot live without champagne. In victory, I deserve it, and in defeat, I need it!!"
Sir Winston Churchill

Sauvignon Blanc

Sauvignon Blanc is one of the most fashionable grapes on wine lists from San Francisco to South Kensington – this is certainly a cool grape both in ethos and in the temperature at which it must be enjoyed. A very aromatic grape producing a dry but rich fruit dominated wine with flavours reminiscent of green apples, gooseberries, cut grass and lychees. The best known of these must be Sancerre and Pouilly-Fume from the Loire, where it is encountered in its purest form - unblended & unsoftened. It has also found fame on New Zealand where its aromatic flavours seem to reach unparalleled levels of concentration.

8	Sauvignon Blanc, Domaine Grauzan, Languedoc, France <i>Crisp & fresh, gooseberry & wild flower nose, lively with crisp green apple finish.</i>	2008	€20 €5 glass
9	Sauvignon Blanc, Muddy Water, Waipara, New Zealand <i>A cracking wine, grassy, crisp green fruit, all you would expect from this region.</i>	2008	€30
10	Pouilly Fume, Domaine Bel-Air, Loire, France <i>A lovely medium bodied wine, great with smoked salmon.</i>	2007	€28
12	Sancerre, Pascal & Nicolas Reverdy, Loire, France. <i>Steely & crisp a real classic Sancerre in style.</i>	2007	€29

"It is well to remember that there are five reasons for drinking: the arrival of a friend; one's present or future thirst; the excellence of the wine; or any other reason."

Chardonnay

The greatest dry white wine grape in the world, this classic variety is responsible for producing the best white Burgundies. Its flavour ranges from the classic, flinty pure clean flavours of Chablis to the other end of the scale – the new world Chardonnay - rich, buttery vanilla, oaky flavours. This grape shows its true flavours & colours with bottle age in the finest pedigree of those top names: Puligny-Montrachet and Batard Montrachet. A wonderful food wine.

14	Chardonnay Reserva, Casa Siva, Colchagua Valley, Chile. <i>Creamy yet acidic, notes of peaches and bananas.</i>	2007	€20 €5 glass
15 AB	Chardonnay, Simone Joseph, Rhone, France <i>A classy chardonnay, well balanced easy drinking, a lovely rounded finish.</i>	2008	€24 €7 glass
16	Chardonnay, Unoaked, Croc Rock, Adelaide Hills, Australia. <i>Very easy drinking wine, fresh and fruity and refreshing.</i>	2006	€22
17	Chablis Premier Cru Fourchaume, Frederic Gueguen, Burgundy, France. <i>Balanced, stylish wine, refined and elegant, the use of no oak allows the minerality to shine through.</i>	2006	€36
18	St Veran, Domaine Guerren, Burgundy, France. <i>Light on the oak a great food wine for the true connoisseur.</i>	2006	€28
19	Meursault, Bouzereau-Gruere, Burgundy, France. <i>Powerful aroma & rich palate of honey, nuts & peaches.</i>	2005	€42
20 AB	Puligny Montrachet, Bouzereau-Gruere, Burgundy, France. <i>In a word....WOW!</i>	2005	€54

Cortese

The grape variety of the Gavi district in Piedmont of North West Italy. It produces delicate, dry wines with a crisp lingering flavour. Here the philosophy is to extract the essence of the grape so the wine is unoaked.

22 AB	Gavi di Gavi, La Chiara, Piedmont, Italy. <i>Lovely and pure with a light bouquet. The finish is crisp apples with a slight mineral edge.</i>	2008	€26
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Viura

This is the traditional white grape of the Rioja region, unique to Spain.

23	White Rioja, Erre Punto, Bodegas Remerez de Ganuza, Spain. <i>This is an unusual dry crisp wine is barrel fermented from 100% viura grapes.</i>	2006	€27
24	Rueda Herbis, Verdejo/Viura, Frank Massard, Spain. <i>A very light fruity easy drinking wine, perfect for salads on summer days, when we get them!</i>	2008	€23

Chenin Blanc

Chenin Blanc is a magical grape in its Loire homeland – producing some of the world's best sweet wines and some exceptional dry white wines. It is one of the few grapes that undergo a complete personality change on leaving France with more honeydew melon character specifically associated with South Africa.

25	Chenin Blanc, Swallow's Tale, Paarl, South Africa. <i>Blended by a Donegal man has the nose and palate of typical S.African chenin with a little spritz of freshness to finish, lovely wine.</i>	2009	€23
26	Vouvray les Argiles, Francois Chidane, Loire, France. <i>This shows a combination of finesse, minerality and power, lusciously juicy yet dry, melon, pineapple, honey and lilacs, both on the palate and the nose, wonderful wine.</i>	2005	€30

“We want the finest wines available to humanity, we want them here, and we want them now!”
Withnail and I, 1987

Pinot Blanc

Produces light, dry, pleasant white wines. It is grown in Alsace (France), California (USA), Italy, Germany and Austria. Chardonnay and Pinot Blanc look very similar and there are some similarities in the wines they make. These wines should be consumed young before the fruit flavors diminish. In Austria, the Pinot Blanc grape is known locally as Weissburgunder.

28	Pinot Blanc Reserve, Gustave Lorentz, Alsace, France. <i>A great food wine that never seems to get it wrong, this is a fine example.</i>	2008	€26
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Viognier

One of the world's most elusive varieties and so imaginative in flavour. Home to the hallowed soil of Condrieu.

30 AB	Viognier, Esprit de Serame, Vin de Pays, Langudoc, France. <i>Our supplier of this says 'One sniff of this and you feel like you have done a yoga class' great nose, peaches, orange blossom, lychees, all of these coming through on the palate in a rich juicy wine.</i>	2007	€24
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31	Condrieu, Grandes Chaillees, Stephane Montez, Domaine du Monteillet, Rhone, France. <i>Concentrated wine, stunningly smooth palette, great food wine.</i>	2007	€40
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Pinot Gris

In the right hands, the Pinot Gris grape also known as Pinot Grigio in Italy has great charm and character – very versatile, can accompany any fish or white meats

32	Pinot Gris, Domaines Schlumberger, Alsace, France. <i>Light honeyed nose with complex palate of pepper, roasted nuts & liquorice underlying sweetness balanced beautifully with the acidity in this great wine, the bargain of the list!!</i>	2006	€27
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33	Pinot Grigio, Gregoris, Venezia, Italy. <i>A very refreshing wine, easy to drink, great with salads or goats cheese.</i>	2008	€22 €6 glass
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Riesling

Riesling is so clearly one of the world's great vines and some would argue that it produces the finest white wines of all. Its classic and purest form is that from Germany where it has a lovely elegant, clean, fresh, oily character. This example highlights the quality of the vine and has no links with the artificially sweetened types which have damaged the fine reputation of Riesling and Germany.

34	Domaine Mittnacht, Riesling, Alsace, France. <i>Spicy, floral, citrusy nose, crisp, dry & lively on the tongue, works with slightly spicy food.</i>	2007	€27
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35 AB	Riesling, Felton Road, Bannockburn, Central Otago, New Zealand. <i>Minerally, green apple & lime. A classic Riesling from an outstanding vineyard.</i>	2007	€35
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Gewurztraminer

Only in the Alsace does the aromatic expressiveness of this variety attain such summits. Spicy and suave, it can be enjoyed on its own, but it makes a marvellous accompaniment to all rich spicy dishes & smoked fish.

36	Gewurztraminer Cuvee Theo, Domaine Weinbach, Alsace, France. <i>Spicy and suave, enjoy on its own, or as a marvellous accompaniment to all rich, spicy dishes.</i>	1999	€42
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Muscadet

Muscadet is produced in 4 wine terroirs around the city of Nantes. In the region, winemakers use to leave the grape juice to rest during winter before putting the wine in bottle. It is a dry white wine that is a fine companion to shellfish.

37	Muscadet Sur Lie Vieilles Vignes, Loire, France. <i>Classic citrus notes, with a chalky minerality on the palate.</i>	2005	€20
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Grüner Veltliner

Austria's finest grape, great with food, can be slightly too heavy on their own. White meats and lighter dishes work best.

38	Grüner Veltliner, Sepp, Kremstal, Austria. <i>Spicy and suave, enjoy on its own, or as a marvellous accompaniment to all rich, spicy dishes.</i>	2007	€25
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Malvasia

This is an indigenous grape to Spain not really tried anywhere else in the world.

39	Malvasia, Marques de la Villa, Spain. <i>Light, fruity, easy drinking wine not complex in simple terms 'a great plonk'.</i>	2008	€21
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Red Wines

"I can certainly see you know your wine. Most of the guests who stay here wouldn't know the difference between Bordeaux and Claret."

Basil Fawly, Fawly Towers

Cabernet Sauvignon (dominated)

This is the noblest of all red grape varieties. The slightest waft of its concentration of blackcurrants and cedar wood is enough to remind wine lovers that this is a grape to be savoured and enjoyed – as often as possible! Capable of developing great complexity with age, this, the aristocrat of Bordeaux varietals – arguably some of the best wines in the world. Just as important are their new world cousins, who win hands down with wonderful fruit domination – layers of rich wild blackcurrants, chocolate and cassis.

51	Chateau Montrose, St Estephe, Bordeaux, France <i>Dense and oaky with red berry fruits, and earthy finish on the nose.</i>	2000	€210
53	Cabernet Sauvignon, Croc Rock, Adelaide Hills, Australia. <i>Deep crimson colour, spice, coffee, vanilla and ripe berries on the nose, smooth rounded tannins finish it off.</i>	2006	€21 €5 glass
54	Tour de Pez, St Estephe, Bordeaux, France. <i>Rich, soft, smooth as velvet claret - a joy</i>	2005	€45
55	Chateau Langoa Barton, Saint-Julien, Bordeaux, France <i>One of the historic Irish Bordeaux families, still quite young tannins yet a classy wine.</i>	1997	€45
56	Chateau Leoville Poyferre, Cru Class, Saint-Julien, Bordeaux, France <i>Cabernet merlot blend, great bramble nose, chewy, juicy fruit with great length on the palate.</i>	2004	€110

Syrah/Shiraz (dominated)

Syrah is the red grape of the Rhone Valley, or Shiraz as it is known in the southern hemisphere, and has the oldest chartered history of any of the noble grape varieties. French style, it produces stunning and complex wines and you can expect to find rustic fruit flavours with leathery, vegetal overtones and good tannins. The new world offers massive explosions of flavour and oak

57	Syrah, Chateau Larzac, Coteaux du Languedoc, France. <i>A very under rated area of France that people are now noticing, peppery spicy notes with a full yet refined finish.</i>	2006	€22
58	Shiraz, McLaren Vale, Australia. <i>A powerful rich premium shiraz, ripe fruit with a spicy hint of chocolate & a velvety finish. A fine ozy red!!</i>	2001	€27
59 AB	Syrah, Simone Joseph, Cotes du Rhone, France. <i>"THE" French wines of the moment. Beautifully elegant and refined, "taste the sunshine"</i>	2005	€25 €7 glass
60 AB	Petit Syrah, Parducci, Mendocino County, USA. <i>Dried cherry aromas make this a stonking wine with steak, venison or duck.</i>	2005	€25
61	Syrah Reserva, La Celia, Uco Valley, Mendoza, Argentina. <i>Hand harvested from low yield vineyards leading to an intense, smooth peppery wine.</i>	2003	€25
62	Chateauneuf du Pape, Domaine Pierre Usseglio, Rhone, France <i>A typically powerful example of what is a great wine.</i>	2004	€46

Merlot (dominated)

With its name meaning little blackbird (due to said bird's predilection for this grape) you'd be forgiven for thinking that Merlot is a dainty, wallflower of a wine - think again - this grape packs a real punch. It lives in the shadow of its big brother - Cabernet Sauvignon – but you will find that Merlot is the dominating grape in the exclusive vineyards of St Emilion and Pomerol. Merlot has much lower tannins, higher sugars and achieves wines of great richness which is highlighted even more so in the New World examples, where they offer incredible weight and concentration.

65	Merlot Legado Reserva, De Martino, Maipo Valley, Chile. <i>Mature blackberry and blueberry flavours together with sweet, toasty notes and a rounded oaky finish.</i>	2006	€22 €6 glass
66	Merlot, Sumaridge, South Africa. <i>"Merlot with a punch, blackberries, cocoa and tobacco all big flavours in this wine.</i>	2008	€24
67	Chateau Mangot Grand Cru, St Emilion, Bordeaux, France. <i>Inky and concentrated with a sumtle woodieness and great length.</i>	2005	€32
68	La Chanade, Domaine Duratou, laLande de Pomerol, Bordeaux, France. <i>My view on this wine is a perfect blend, 70% merlot for the fruit, structure through the 20% cabernet sauvignon and the little touch of finesse with 10% cabernet franc</i>	2006	€35
69	Château Grand-Puy-Ducasse, Pauillac, Bordeaux, France A	2003	€95
70	Château La tour a Pomerol, Pomerol, Bordeaux, France. A	1998	€150

Pinot Noir

Pinot Noir is unlike any other red grape variety, and as such, it has several accolades: the first being that it is thought to have been the first vine to have been cultivated by man, and the second that it produces some of the finest red wines in the world. It is extremely hard to grow and to obtain that perfect ripeness required for viticulture - it is known as the Holy Grail of grapes, due to its elusiveness. It is also known as the most feminine of the grape varieties because of its refinement, its elegance and its silky ability to tantalise the palate. Pinot Noir has no one single recognisable flavour, but the overall suggestion of sweetness is apparent, as is the relatively high alcohol. In young red Burgundy, there is the taste of freshly crushed raspberries, but as it matures, develops and sheds its fruity cloak, it exhibits some of the most extraordinary flavours: think violets, game, rotten vegetables and truffles. New World counterparts range from the plummy Californians through to the rich strawberry jams of New Zealand.

71	Pinot Noir, Muddy Water, Waipara, New Zealand. <i>Cherries & light oak on the nose very smooth slightly fruity finish, a great wine. I love this so much, i have some at home so try some before its all gone!!</i>	2007	€32
AB			
72	Pinot Noir, Violot-Guillemand, Burgundy, France. <i>Combination of red berries and earthiness give a gamey quality leading onto lots of juice.</i>	2006	€26
73	Gevrey Chambertin, Hubert Freres, Burgundy, France. <i>Dark red with a powerful nose and subtle red fruits. Good structure, rich, elegant & well balanced.</i>	2005	€45
AB			
74	Savigny les Beaune, Simon Bize, Burgundy, France. <i>Elegant wine with great length showing well right now, amazing with duck!!</i>	2005	€44
75	Pommard 1er Cru Les Rugiens, Domaine Joseph Voillot A	2000	€95

"Drinking good wine with good food in good company is one of life's most civilized pleasures."
Unknown

Tempranillo

Tempranillo is Spain's best known grape, and is the main ingredient in one of the world's favourite wines – Rioja. Some say that the first Tempranillo grapes were introduced by French pilgrims on their way from the monasteries to Santiago de Compostela – and were a cross between Pinot Noir and Cabernet. It is certainly possible. Firstly, the similarity between a good quality mature Rioja and an old red Burgundy is unmistakable, and secondly, Tempranillo does have thick skins producing wine with lots of colour and has the ability to age just like Cabernet. However, its strength lies in its taste – it can achieve great richness dominated by wild black fruit characteristics

78	Vinho Tinto, Quinta do Vallado, Douro, Portugal. <i>A blended wine, slightly dominated by tempranillo along with another 5 varietals, interesting!!</i>	2001	€25
79	Rioja Crianza La Emperatriz, Rioja, Spain. <i>Really serious wine, big and rich with masses of spicy fruit and classic vanilla oak flavours.</i>	2005	€24 €7 glass
AB			
80	Gazur Reserva, Ribera del Duero, Spain. <i>Great balance of autumnal fruit, with hints of mocha, leather & vanilla, give this one 20 minutes in the glass before you drink it, it opens up beautifully.</i>	2006	€24

Mencia

The mencia grape is 'the' up and coming variety. It is grown in the north-west of Spain principally in the DOs of Bierzo and Valdeorras. It produces red wines that are fruity and delicate. Due to their relative lightness and delicacy they make a refreshing change to other Spanish red wines.

81	Petalos, de J Palacios, Bierzo, Spain. <i>This particular wine is made by one of the stalwarts of Rhone winemaking, Paul Jaboulet, a light wine with a good hint of spice. If you want something a little different...this is it!</i>	2007	€34
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Gamay

A French red grape variety. It is planted primarily in the Beaujolais region, where it is responsible for every wine from the light acidic Beaujolais Nouveau through to the deliciously fruity and sometimes jammy cru wines.

82	Fleurie, Domaine des Nuges, Beaujolais, France. <i>Soft, wild berry fruit with a long elegant finish</i>	2006	€26
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Grenache (Garnacha)

This is the second most widely planted grape in the world, famously part of the blend in Chateaufort-du-Pape. It also grows well in Spain (Garnacha) and Australia.

83	Grenache, Classic McLaren, McLaren Vale, Australia. <i>Quite unusual for an ozy Grenache, this will drink well young but has the structure and body to age well too.</i>	2001	€28
84	Garnacha, Campos de Luz (old vines), Spain. <i>Old vines produce less fruit but more intense flavours, as you will see in this wine, not for the faint hearted.</i>	2007	€20
95	Coteaux du Languedoc, Domaine de Montcalmes, Languedoc, France. <i>Cherry fruits with lots of peppery spice, confit of duck or rabbit would be fantastic with this.</i>	2005	€44

Malbec

Once an important grape in Bordeaux & the Loire regions it is now best known coming out of Argentina, producing big smooth reds with plum and tobacco notes.

85	Malbec, Bodega Lurton, Mendoza, Argentina. <i>Exactly as people tell you it should be, big, dried autumnal fruits with hints of tobacco, a big steak is the only thing to go with this.</i>	2007	€20
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Pinotage

Its Quite simple with this grape, you will love or hate it, there does not seem to be a middle ground with this one, developed to meet the demands of the South African climate & soil rough damson style big wines.

86	Pinotage, Sumaridge, Walker Bay, South Africa. <i>Soft silky oak leads onto big fruit flavours in this full bodied wine.</i>	2006	€24
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Zinfandel

Originally thought to have come from Southern Italy zinfandel is now the most widely planted grape in California, the quintessentially American wine. Almost claret like in style, ripe fruit and firmly tannic, certainly a wine that needs 3-4 years in bottle to enjoy at its best.

87 AB	Zinfandel, Parducci, Mendocino County, California, USA. <i>Robust, dry red with jammy fruit flavours with spicy notes, big wine, big flavours.</i>	2005	€24
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Carmenère

Carmenere is a good blending grape but makes undistinguished wines when bottled as a single varietal, except for Chile, which has taken it as its own, likening it to merlot, they are very soft and mellow.

88	Carmenère Coleccion, Casa Siva, Colchagua Valley, Chile. <i>Mellow easy drinking fruity red.</i>	2006	€20
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Corvina

Along with Molinara and Rondinella, Corvina is the varietal responsible for the production of Valpolicella and Bardolino in northeastern Italy. Corvina is generally regarded as the best of these grapes, it is most expressive as the main component of the full-bodied, powerful and concentrated, dried-grape (Ripasso) red wines of Amarone.

89 AB	Valpolicella Ripasso, Degani Cicilio, Verona, Italy. <i>Smooth, rich and velvety texture with coffee and spice on the finish, a real one of my favourites on the list.</i>	2006	€27
90	Amarone Classico, Degani, Verona, Italy. <i>Intense, dark sun ripened fruit, with cloves and liquorice. Rich and silky smooth with great length.</i>	2005	€38

Nebbiolo

The great grape of Piedmont, Northern Italy, it excels in Barolo and Barbaresco, normally takes over 5 years to develop. Aromas of tobacco and herbs give way to flavour of roses, chocolate, cherries, raisins and prunes.

91	Barolo DOCG, Boroli, Piedmont, Italy. <i>Tar, liquorice and roses on the nose, soft oaky tannins with rich dark fruit.</i>	2003	€44
96	Enzo Boglietti, Dolcetto d'Alba, La Morna, Italy. <i>Tar, liquorice and roses on the nose, soft oaky tannins with rich dark fruit.</i>	2006	€44

**"I feel sorry for people who don't drink.
When they wake up in the morning,
that's as good as they're going to feel all day."**
Frank Sinatra

Sangiovese

This is the hallowed grape of Tuscany & it's wines, chianti & brunello, full cherry fruits, good structure and tannins are all strengths in this grape.

92 AB	Chianti Rufina, Raccolto, Italy. <i>Broad, earthy flavours, slightly tangy yet smooth finish.</i>	2006	€21
93	Poliziano vino nobile di Montipulciano, Italy. <i>Huge coffee and dark fruit aromas, big and concentrated, real style.</i>	2005	€32

Cabernet Franc

Often used in Bordeaux blends to add acidity and aroma. Cabernet Franc is usually used as a minor component in a blend with other varieties. The only notable exception is at Chateau Cheval Blanc in Saint Emilion. Genetic research indicates that it is the parent of Cabernet Sauvignon. It makes wines that are lighter and fruitier than Cabernet Sauvignon.

94	Chinon Rose, Bernard Baudry, Loire, France. <i>Light strawberry essence with a raspberry overtone and good length – a complex dry rosé.</i>	2006	€24 €7 glass
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**"A man, fallen on hard times, sold his art collection but kept his wine cellar. When asked why he did not sell his wine, he said:
"A man can live without art, but not without culture."**
Unknown